Charles Kochan III
24 Twitchgrass Rd.,
Trumbull, CT 06611

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of SB292, which is a bill that supports the tremendously important process of licensing individuals who practice behavior analytic services. In addition, I support the inclusion of language into the bill that allows for direct line staff such as paraprofessionals in schools or Registered Behavior Technicians (RBT) who work under a licensed Behavior Analyst or licensed Assistant Behavior Analyst. As a board certified behavior analyst (BCBA) working in a school for students diagnosed with mental health disorders and Autism Spectrum disorders, I am a strong supporter for the need of licensure to protect the access to services provided to my clients as well as maintaining services over a period of time while working with funding agencies such as DCF, DDS, or insurance providers. The students I work with require extensive services to make meaningful gains towards becoming socially competent members of society in the future. Developing licensure for behavior analysis is one step towards ensuring appropriate services are provided to these individuals.

As of the time of writing this letter there are 24 states that have already developed laws to oversee the licensure of board certified behavior analysts including all the surrounding states. There are 548 certified individuals in the state of Connecticut currently. The services these individuals provide is extensive and spans across the governmental, educational, and psychiatric levels with a multitude of client caseloads per individual BCBA. Implementing licensure would affect the services provided to all these clients and expand access to those who may not have qualified for services due to limitations in third party provider protocols that limit access to services to those with licensure.

In summary, I wholeheartedly support the bill SB292 and the inclusion of language that allows for licensed behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts to supervise direct line staff implementing services. This bill would have lasting impact on all consumers of behavior analytic services and expand services to those who are currently restricted by policies governing access to providers with licensure. Our state desperately needs to join the surrounding states in advancing our governments social services provided to residents in need of services.

Sincerely,

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Charles Kochan III, M.S. BCBA